

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08882 141050Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----017381 141055Z /21
O 141025Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4169
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8882

EXDIS DIST AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IS, LE, US
SUBJECT: ISRAELI ARMS SHIPMENTS TO LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

REF: TEL AVIV 8870

1. AS HE PROMISED WHEN I SPOKE TO HIM YESTERDAY, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TELEPHONED ME MORNING OF JULY 14 CONCERNING ISRAELI ARMS SUPPLY TO LEBANESE CHRISTIANS. (HE INCIDENTALLY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENSE MINISTRY AS ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER IN WEIZMAN'S ABSENCE.)
2. BEGIN SAID HE HAD TALKED TO THE IDF CHIEF OF STAFF AND COULD GIVE ME FIRM ASSURANCES THAT UP UNTIL THIS POINT THE ISRAELIS HAD DELIVERED ONLY AMMUNITION TO RESUPPLY THE CHRISTIANS. HE SAID THERE MIGHT BE SOME OTHER ARMS SENT AT A LATER DATE, BUT THEY WOULD MOST ASSUREDLY NOT BE OF A "PROVOCATIVE TYPE," AND WOULD ONLY BE FURNISHED "TO ASSURE CHRISTIAN SURVIVAL."
3. BEGIN THEN WENT ON TO CONFIRM UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT NO RP NO ARMS OF U.S. ORIGIN HAD BEEN OR WOULD BE SUPPLIED

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TO THE CHRISTIANS. HE SAID THAT THE GOI WAS FULLY SENSITIVE TO THIS PROBLEM AND HAD BEEN STRICTLY OBSERVING THE REQUIREMENT.

4. IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW WE CAN GET MORE ASSURANCES ON THIS SUBJECT, OR MORE AUTHORITATIVELY, THAT WE HAVE NOW DONE. I REALIZE THAT THEY CONFLICT WITH A NUMBER

OF THE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS STREAMING FROM VARIOUS
SOURCES IN LEBANON, BUT OUR IMPRESSION FROM ALL OUR
CONVERSATIONS HERE IS THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE INCREASINGLY
WARY OF THE DANGERS OF ENCOURAGING THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS
TO PROVOKE THE SYRIANS AND THAT THEY MEAN WHAT THEY ARE
SAYING TO US. MY OWN GUESS IS THAT STORES ABOUT TANKS
AND SO FORTH REFLECT A GREAT DEAL OF WHISTLING IN THE
DARK FROM THE CHRISTIANS.

LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, ARMED FORCES, ALLEGATIONS, ARMS SHIPMENTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV08882
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840157-2608
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780758/aaaabwoc.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eedd0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 78 TEL AVIV 8870
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2000128
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI ARMS SHIPMENTS TO LEBANESE CHRISTIANS
TAGS: MASS, IS, LE, US, (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
To: STATE BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eedd0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014